

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 4, 6, 9-11, 13-14, 17-18 and 25. Please amend claims 5, 7-8, 12, 15-16, 20-22 and 26 as follows. Please enter new claims 27-34. The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (original) A method of navigation of the programming of an audio program provider in which the provider presents to listeners a standardized method for searching, selecting and playing programming, wherein:

the provider offers a top channel accessible simultaneously by a plurality of listeners, wherein each listener receives substantially a same playlist;

a listener reacts to program items that are played on the top channel, a cumulative history of a listener's reactions comprising a user preference;

the provider offers an ability to create a first side channel wherein an alternate personal playlist is already prepared when the listener reacts in a first manner to a program item of the top channel;

the first side channel including programming that reflects a combination of a style of the provider of the selected top channel, and the user preference, wherein the listener creates a personal playlist of programming in near real time during the course of listening and reacting to a channel of the program provider.

2. (original) The method of navigation of claim 1 wherein the listener may immediately select either one of the top channel and the first side channel.

3. (original) The method of navigation of claim 1 wherein the listener's reaction includes a negative response to a program item of the top channel.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) The method of navigation of claim 1 wherein the program provider is an affiliate of a network of program providers, a network operator provides guidance in methods for the program providers to assemble personal playlists, and a listener has access to distinct playlists on side channels of respective distinct program providers wherein the style of a side channel is determined by the style of the top channel of the distinct program provider .

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) The method of navigation of claim 1 wherein the first side channel includes a preassembled playlist ~~that comprises in majority the program items of the top channel~~ distinct from the playlist of the top channel in the format of the top channel.

8. (currently amended) The method of navigation of claim ~~1~~ 7 wherein the listener reacts in the first manner to the preassembled ~~program items of the personal~~ playlist of the first side channel, and a ~~further personalized playlist~~ second side channel is already prepared when the listener ~~so reacts to program items of the first side channel~~, thereby ~~further refining the preassembled playlist of the first side channel to better match the user's preferences.~~

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended) A method of navigation of the programming of an audio program provider affiliated with a network of other providers wherein:

a standardized control device is used to search, select and play programming of the providers, the providers being the operators of stations;

the control device includes a display screen to assist a listener in navigating programming;

the display screen includes distinct portions dedicated for displays of specific types of information about the programming, the respective portions of the display screen being used in a common manner among a majority of affiliated providers of the network;

~~a network operator guides the affiliated providers with respect to the type of information that is to be displayed in respective portions of the display screen;~~

a first portion of the display screen describes a category of the program material provider, and, a second further portion of the display screen describes a channel of

programming offered by the station, a third portion of the display screen describes an item being played on the top channel, each of the three portions of the display screen comprising a non-changing location;

the control device includes at least three distinct input devices, each distinct input device graphically linked to a non-changing location on the display screen; a first input device whereby the listener can select between at least two channels of the a station including a top channel, and a side channel, the top channel being accessible simultaneously by a plurality of listeners, wherein each listener receives substantially a same playlist, and the side channel comprising an alternate playlist distinct from that of the top channel;

the listener being able to immediately select either one of the top channel and the side channel.

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended). The navigation method of claim 12 wherein ~~at least one of the first input device and the second input device~~ is a rotatable dial and the graphic link to a non-changing location on the display screen comprises a pointer printed on the control device housing.

16. (currently amended). The navigation method of claim ~~15~~ 14 wherein a ~~second~~ third input device comprises a rotatable dial positioned coaxially around the rotatable dial of the first ~~second~~ input device, ~~and the third input device operates to select a category of programming~~ the graphic link to a non-changing location on the display screen comprises a pointer printed on the control device housing;

and the dial color of each of the first and second input devices matches its respective printed pointer.

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (original). The navigation method of claim 12 wherein the side channel includes a personalized playlist that is unique to the user.

20. (currently amended) A method of navigation of the programming of a distinct station of an audio program provider affiliated with a network of other stations of providers wherein:

the audio program providers offer information that is of interest to users, including a top channel of each provider comprising a default playlist of information comprising distinct playlist items that are played sequentially on an audio device;

a standardized control device is used to search, select and play programming of the providers, the control device including a display screen to assist a user in navigating programming;

the control device operates in a substantially common manner when used to play programming of stations affiliated with the network;

a pointer printed on the control device housing indicates the playlist item that is currently being played;

~~at least one search control selector of the control device is used to control multiple levels of information, higher levels being of a relatively broad descriptive nature, and lower levels defining a style of a particular playlist of information;~~

the control device incorporates two modify control buttons, each button acting upon the currently playing playlist item, the first button acting to delete the item and the second button acting to simultaneously skip the currently playing item and save it for use in an alternate playlist;

the modify control buttons being graphically associated with each other and with the playlist item that is currently being played.

~~the user operates modification feature of the control device to modify the default playlist of information, thereby creating a personalized playlist of information from the default playlist of information, the at least one search control selector and the modification feature being distinct elements of the control device;~~

~~the personalized playlist of information reflecting a user's history of modifying the default playlist;~~

~~a search control selector enabling the user to immediately select either the default playlist of the top channel or the personalized playlist of information.~~

21. (currently amended) The method of navigation of claim 20 wherein the control device incorporates a station selector ~~comprises a search control selector~~, and the station selector is used to search and select the stations of affiliated providers of information.

22. (currently amended) The method of navigation of claim 21 wherein a ~~further search selector comprises a~~ channel selector which operates at a level below the station selector to search and select information within a selected station.

23. (original) The method of navigation of claim 22 wherein a portion of the display screen is dedicated to display an identity of the station, and a further portion of the display screen is dedicated to identify a type of information that is being audibly played.

24. (original) The method of navigation of claim 23 wherein an additional further portion of the display screen is dedicated to specifically identify the information that is being audibly played.

25. (canceled).

26 . (currently amended). A method of navigation of the programming of a distinct station of an audio program provider affiliated with a network of other stations of providers wherein:

at least some of the stations are owned and operated independently from each other;

the station offers a top channel accessible simultaneously by a plurality of listeners, wherein each listener receives substantially a same playlist;

a listener reacts to a program items that are is played on the top channel by means of modify control buttons incorporated in a control device, the modify control buttons being distinct from channel, station and category selection dials;

a first button acts to delete the item, a second button acts to simultaneously skip the item and save it on a personalized playlist;

a cumulative history of a listener's reactions comprising a user preference;

the station offers an ability to create a first side channel wherein an alternate personal playlist is already prepared when the listener reacts to a program item of the top channel, the listener is automatically switched from the top channel to the side channel when the listener reacts to the program item of the top channel, both the top channel and the side channel being immediately accessible to the listener after the side channel is created;

the first side channel including programming that reflects a combination of a style of the station that offers the selected top channel, and the user preference, wherein the listener creates a personal playlist of programming in near real time during the course of listening and reacting to a channel of the station;

a network operator provides guidance in methods for the stations to enable listeners to assemble personal playlists, and a listener has access to distinct personal playlists on sidechannels of respective distinct stations.

27. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein the standardized control device incorporates a button that causes information on the screen to be spoken to the listener.

28. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the standardized control device incorporates a button that causes information on the screen to be spoken to the listener.

29. (new) A method of navigation of the programming of an audio program provider wherein a standardized control device is used to search, select and play items of a playlist;

the control device includes a display screen to assist a listener in navigating programming wherein information appearing on a non-changing location of the display screen responds to actions upon a specific input device;

and a pointer printed on the control device housing indicates the non-changing location of the display screen controlled by the specific input device.

30. (new) The navigation method of claim 30 wherein the specific input device comprises a rotatable dial and the dial is color coded to match the printed pointer.

31. (new) The navigation method of claim 31 wherein the standardized control device incorporates a second input device wherein a second non-changing portion of the display screen responds to actions upon the second input device and a second pointer printed on the control device housing indicates a second non-changing portion of the display screen controlled by the second input device.

32. (new) The navigation method of claim 32 wherein the second input device comprises a second rotatable dial and the second rotatable dial is color coded to match the second printed pointer.

33. (new) The navigation method of claim 33 wherein the second input device is coaxial around the first input device.

34. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein the standardized control device incorporates a button that causes information on the screen to be spoken to the listener.